



October 9, 2013

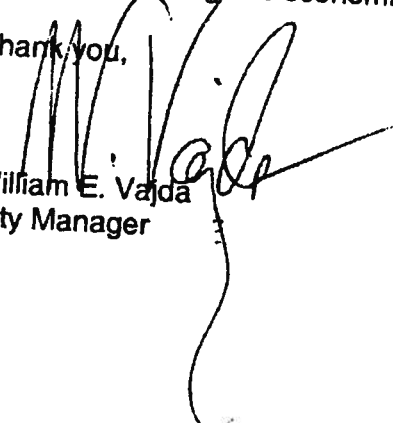
Representative Frank Foster  
1486 House Office Bldg.  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Foster and Committee Members:

Thank you for your diligence regarding Senate Bills 397 and 398 and House Bills 4782 and 4783. My colleagues, Escanaba City Manager Mr. Jim O'Toole, Senator Thomas Casperson, Representative John Kivela, and I are deeply committed to the proposition that Marquette and Delta Counties become a Next Michigan Development District and to ensure the Upper Peninsula stands with the rest of the state on the forefront of Economic Development and achievement.

I believe these bills once signed into law will foster economic success across hundreds of businesses representing the lifeblood and employment for over half of the entire Upper Peninsula population. I believe passage of Senate Bills 397 and 398 and House Bills 4782 and 4783, will demonstrate that the Upper Peninsula is indeed a part of the Next Michigan, and an equal partner in the success of Michigan's economic future.

Thank you,

  
William E. Valda  
City Manager